FOCUS

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CLASSES OPENS MARCH 10. CLASSES START MAY 12.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication
February 2025

KalamazooVALLEY community college

COLLEGE TO TEACH STUDENTS AI TOOLS TO PREPARE THEM FOR CAREERS

To help prepare students for today's job market, some classes at Kalamazoo Valley Community College have begun exposing them to how to utilize generative artificial intelligence, and even more courses will do so in the future.

The long-term plan, according to President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D., is to not only integrate generative artificial intelligence assignments in the classroom to give students hands-on experiences, but for employees to use the technology within the college's student support services and business practices.

Washington has formed an AI Strategic Steering Council to oversee the process for fully building out AI integration at the college, expanding upon an internal task force's exploratory research and training over the last nearly two years. The group was launched during the Winter 2025 semester that began Jan. 13.

"We are aware of societal shifts with technologies such as generative artificial intelligence, or generative AI, and continue to explore and expand our understanding," Washington said. "We are embracing this transformative technology with an open mind and a spirit of curiosity. We continually work to enhance our position as quality educators and leaders in innovation."

Traditional artificial intelligence focuses on performing a specific task based on analyzing and responding to data inputs. But with generative AI's ability to create original and new content across multiple formats – from text and images to code and music – with user-provided prompts, the technology is transforming industries not only worldwide, but locally, according to Paige Eagan, Ph.D., provost at Kalamazoo Valley.

"In our own community, we've witnessed its impact across diverse sectors: manufacturing facilities using AI to optimize maintenance schedules, healthcare providers generating personalized patient materials and architects creating innovative design solutions," Eagan said. "This technology isn't just changing how we work; it's transforming how we think about problem-solving and creativity."

Recognizing both the opportunities and challenges this technology presents, Eagan

said Kalamazoo Valley has taken deliberate steps to harness AI's potential while maintaining its commitment to academic integrity and educational excellence. The college has created a "Working Statement on Generative AI" to provide guidance as it continues to develop its AI integration plan.

In the statement, the college stresses balancing innovation with integrity. It also identifies as priorities empowering employees and students with guidance and resources surrounding generative artificial intelligence, enhancing operational efficiency and exercising continuous learning as the technology evolves.

The college first began studying AI in Fall 2023 with the formation of a specialized task force within its Academic Integrity Workgroup. This led to further discovery and discussion, culminating in an internal Faculty Summit on Generative AI in April 2024. The momentum continued through 2024 as the college's leadership team engaged in critical discussions and attended specialized workshops focused on AI's role in community colleges. The next step is instructional faculty will have the opportunity to attend a virtual AI conference this month to gain tools for course design and more.

Then, this spring, the college's corporate training department will offer three AI courses to the general public. Two classes are geared toward beginners. One provides an overview and the second reviews the different AI platforms, such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, Copilot and others. The third course helps business leaders develop strategies to implement the technology within their organizations.

"I'm feeling good about where we are, that we have a working statement and we have a vision moving forward," Eagan said. "We're on a journey to continue to learn and adapt and prepare the best workforce and transfer students possible to give them all the skills that are needed for today's and tomorrow's career world."

For more information about Kalamazoo Valley's corporate training courses on generative artificial intelligence, see page 5. To read the college's "Working Statement on Generative AI," go online to ***https://bit.ly/AI_Statement****.*

ART & ANIMATION SPRING BREAK CAMP:
COMICS AND MANGA DESIGN
March 31 - April 4 | 9 a.m. - Noon | $125*
4th - 8th grade
Spend spring break with instructor Aubrey Jewel Rodgers drawing and creating at the Center for New Media! Take your love of comics and manga to the next level as you design your own book. Learn professional drawing and inking techniques while pushing your storytelling skills to their full potential.
*Additional $5 per day early dropoff at 8 a.m. available

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
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Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070

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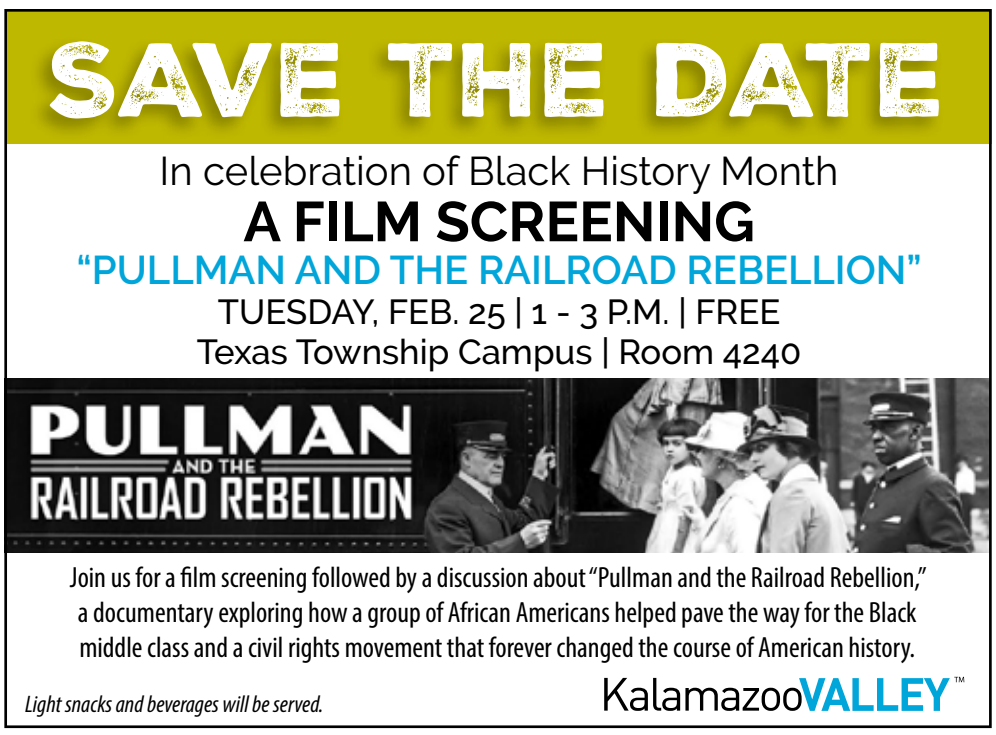
SAVE THE DATE
In celebration of Black History Month
A FILM SCREENING
"PULLMAN AND THE RAILROAD REBELLION"
TUESDAY, FEB. 25 | 1 - 3 P.M. | FREE
Texas Township Campus | Room 4240
PULLMAN AND THE RAILROAD REBELLION
Join us for a film screening followed by a discussion about "Pullman and the Railroad Rebellion," a documentary exploring how a group of African Americans helped pave the way for the Black middle class and a civil rights movement that forever changed the course of American history.
Light snacks and beverages will be served.
KalamazooVALLEY

APPLY NOW FOR KALAMAZOO VALLEY MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

High school seniors planning to attend Kalamazoo Valley for the 2025-2026 school year are encouraged to apply for the Kalamazoo Valley Merit Scholarship.

The $2,000 scholarship can be used toward educational expenses for two consecutive semesters at $1,000 per semester. To be eligible for consideration, the following is required:

- Minimum high school GPA of 3.25
- Apply to Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 semesters
- Must be a current high school senior (2025 high school graduating class)
- Must be receiving a high school diploma or GED with a 2025 high school graduating class
- Must have applied and been accepted to Kalamazoo Valley Community College
- Must complete New Student Orientation
- Must enroll in a minimum of six credits for the Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 semesters
- Must have completed a minimum of 12 credits by the conclusion of the first academic year
- Scholarship may be combined with TIP, Michigan Competitive Scholarship, Kalamazoo Promise and other federal grants and loans, including the Pell Grant
- Scholarship may also be combined with the Kalamazoo Valley Trustee High School Award, Kalamazoo Valley Trustee Education for Employment Award, KVCC Trustee Athletic Award and Kalamazoo Valley Honors Scholarship
- Early/Middle College students are not eligible
- Renewable for a second year (Fall 2026 and Winter 2027) for students who complete 12 credits in their first year and who are in good academic standing
- Must submit a fully completed scholarship application by March 1

Apply online at **kvcc.edu/merit** by March 1. If you have questions, please call 269.488.4303 or email enrollment@kvcc.edu.

Additional scholarships are available through the KVCC Foundation. Visit **www.kvcc.edu/finaid** to learn more.

FOODWAYS SYMPOSIUM

COMING APRIL 4 - 5

Keynote speaker Cortney Collia

Keynote speaker Roger LaBine

Mark your calendars for the 2025 Kalamazoo Valley Foodways Symposium. This free annual celebration of greater Kalamazoo's agricultural history and heritage will be held April 4 - 5 at two of Kalamazoo Valley Community College's locations in downtown Kalamazoo.

This year, the college will explore foodways through the lens of water, and all the ways in which water gives us life and sustains us. Expect a weekend of good food and more as the community comes together to work to build a just and healthy future for all.

The event kicks off on the evening of Friday, April 4 at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, starting with a free distribution of seeds from 6 to 7 p.m. A keynote address follows from 7 to 8 p.m. illuminating the gift of Manoomin (wild rice), which was designated Michigan's state native grain in 2023. Manoomin appetizers will be served from 8 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday's keynote speakers are Roger LaBine and Cortney Collia. LaBine is a member of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge. He is employed in the Environmental and Planning Department as a water resource technician. He is the current tribal delegate on the Michigan Wild Rice Initiative and co-chairman of the Native Wild Rice Coalition. Collia is an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She is an education and outreach committee member for the Michigan Wild Rice Initiative.

Enjoy more free activities the next day, Saturday, April 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the college's Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building, located at 418 E. Walnut St. in downtown Kalamazoo. The day will feature culinary exploration, presentations, a plant walk, youth activities, a community organization showcase, building tours and more.

Visit **kalamazoofoodways.org** for details.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY HOSTS RECYCLING EVENT

Kalamazoo Valley Community College is partnering with Green Earth Electronics Recycling to host biannual EPS foam and electronics recycling events at the Texas Township Campus. This year the events will be held Saturday, April 19 and Saturday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Texas Township Campus. Both events will take place in the main parking lot off of O Avenue and are led by the college's Sustainability Committee.

Energy and Materials Handling Manager Nathan Rickey says these events provide an easy opportunity for the community to recycle items that are often challenging or costly to recycle.

"We tried to focus on the western side of Kalamazoo County where many may not have an easy method or location to recycle their materials," Rickey said. "These events are a service to the community and allow community members an opportunity to recycle materials, both foam and electronics. There is a huge demand for additional recycling opportunities within the area."

This initiative began in early 2022. Kalamazoo Valley began collecting expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam, commonly known as Styrofoam, which accumulated from daily deliveries to the college.

Kalamazoo Valley learned that the City of Kalamazoo was actively hosting quarterly foam and electronics recycling events at Mayors' Riverfront Park in downtown Kalamazoo. Recognizing the potential for collaboration, Kalamazoo Valley reached out to the city in the summer of 2022 with the goal of coordinating a recycling event at the college later that year.

After coordinating event logistics with the city, the first recycling event hosted by Kalamazoo Valley took place on Oct. 22, 2022 at the Texas Township Campus. The event proved to be a success, drawing significant community participation. Going forward, the college has committed to host recycling events at least twice per year.

"With the support from both employees and community members, I quickly found out how passionate some of the locals are about the recycling programs that are offered," Rickey said. "Positive feedback from these events has confirmed that adding this opportunity to the western side of Kalamazoo County was much needed. It's great to be able to host these events and get involved in partnering with the community in these efforts."

After each event, Kalamazoo Valley works with Dart Container Corporation to coordinate a pickup of the collected foam. Once in hand, Dart condenses the foam and repurposes it into picture frames, crown molding and other useful household materials.

Not sure what items you can bring to the next event on April 19? Remember this simple guideline for recycling foam: If it bends and breaks, it's recyclable; if it bends without breaking, it can't be recycled with the rest.

All materials collected at these events, both foam and electronics, are recycled free of charge with the exception of televisions, monitors and freon units which carry a small fee. The community is encouraged to bring their foam and electronics to the 2025 events to help reduce waste and support a greener Kalamazoo.

For more information or questions, contact Kalamazoo Valley Facilities Services at **facilities@kvcc.edu**.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE Kalamazoo VALLEY Museum KV

FREE FUN FOR ALL AGES AT THE KALAMAZOO VALLEY MUSEUM

RAY HARRYHAUSEN: MINIATURE MODELS OF THE SILVER SCREEN

NOW - APRIL 27

Over 100 artifacts from the collection of animation filmmaker Ray Harryhausen are on view. Enjoy Harryhausen's stop-motion animation films at 1 p.m. March 30, April 6 and April 13. Meet the Scotland-based exhibit's curator at 1 p.m. April 27. Visit **kalamazoomuseum.org** for film titles.

Organized by The Ray & Diana Harryhausen Foundation (Charity No. SC001419)

SPRING BREAK PROGRAMMING

APRIL 1 - 5

Kids can spend the week learning how to create fantastic creatures, like fairies and mermaids, through a variety of different hands-on activities. All experiences tie in with the new Ray Harryhausen traveling exhibit. See the website for times and more information.

COLORFUL COLLECTIONS

NOW - AUG. 31

This new exhibit features items from the permanent collection of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum displayed in a rainbow of hues. Delve into the color spectrum like never before as you enjoy some of the brightest and boldest examples from the KVM's collection.

Designed by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

THE 20th ANNUAL FRETBOARD FESTIVAL

MARCH 21 - 22

Enjoy free live performances and more Friday, March 21, 6 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, March 22, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. See the website for the schedule. Bonus: A free documentary screening will be held 1 p.m. Sunday, March 2 chronicling the Fretboard Festival's 20-year history.

THE ART OF ADVERTISING

NOW - AUG. 31

Highlighting nostalgic signs and advertisements from local businesses from the permanent collection of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, "The Art of Advertising" offers up an eclectic mix of advertising paraphernalia from bygone eras.

Created by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

WALLACE & GROMIT AND SHAUN THE SHEEP: SHEAR GENIUS!

MAY 17 - AUG. 31

Step into the environments of Wallace & Gromit and Shaun the Sheep to explore their contraptions, antics and escapades through dramatic play and interactive opportunities.

Wallace & Gromit™ and Shaun the Sheep™: Shear Genius! was created by Minnesota Children's Museum and Ardman Animations™ Limited © 2025

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees. Admission is free.

FREE ELECTRICAL TRAINING COURSE

This Electrical Program is designed for any individual interested in getting into the electrical field. The program will introduce basic theory and safety concepts that will allow participants to experience the electrical field and decide which path they want to take. This program will prepare participants to continue down several different tracks, such as electrical apprenticeship, maintenance technician, millwright apprenticeship and more.

This program will include:

OSHA 10 | MARCH 10 AND 17 | 8 A.M. - 3 P.M.
BASIC FIRST AID/CPR | MARCH 15 | 9 A.M. - NOON
ELECTRICAL SAFETY | MARCH 24 | 8 A.M. - 5 P.M.
BASIC ELECTRICAL | MARCH 31, APRIL 7, 14 AND 21 | 8 A.M. - 5 P.M.

The program is free of charge to residents residing in core neighborhoods or who are Kalamazoo Promise eligible. All classes are taught at the Northside Association for Community Development (NACD), 612 N. Park St, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

For more information, contact Charmelle Abdullah, program coordinator, at cabdullah@kvcc.edu or 269.353.1268.

HONOR SOCIETY TREE PLANTING BENEFITS AREAS AFFECTED BY PORTAGE TORNADOES

From left to right (front row): PTK members Melinda McLennan, Mackenzie Flood and Anna Oppedisano. (Back row): PTK members Alexander Taylor and Adrien Simmons

When two tornadoes touched down in Portage on May 7, communities were left speechless by the devastation. Damaged properties, trees torn from the ground, debris and downed power lines tasked the community with a long journey of cleanup and restoration. Kalamazoo Valley's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, saw an opportunity to assist with an often-overlooked part of the process: planting trees.

"We may not know how long the effects of the tornadoes could last, though we can do what we can to bring Portage back to what it once was," said Mackenzie Flood, PTK chapter co-president. "New trees take time to grow back, though we're trying to make a difference through this project."

The tree plantings began over the summer in residential areas throughout Portage. The initiative was made possible by a $2,500 mini grant from the KVCC Foundation, which paid for 15 trees and necessary supplies. The chapter worked closely with Andy Wedel and Gary Miller from Wedel's Nursery, Florist and Garden Center in Kalamazoo to purchase the materials. "We would not have been able to do anything over the summer without the mini grant," Flood said. "It completely funded the plantings in residential areas. Wedel's gave us an amazing deal on everything we needed and was a great partner, too."

Kalamazoo Valley Procurement and Project Manager Gavin Henry, one of the chapter's advisors, said community members were touched by the students' efforts. "They were really impacted," he said. "Giving life back to where it was once taken is so meaningful to people."

Since then, the chapter continued the initiative by joining the City of Portage in planting trees during the fall. On Oct. 27, PTK volunteers joined community members at The Celery Flats, a park and walking trail devastated by the tornadoes. The event was open to the public and was coordinated by the city. "I think that this is an awesome way to help restore what was lost in an area that is going to be well trafficked and is well loved by many in the community," Henry said. "There is always life after devastation."

The tree plantings have not only been impactful to the community but also to those who volunteered. "The chapter members learned a lot," Flood said. "We were happy to know that we made an impact and made members of the community happy. The kindness that we gave meant a lot to them. In times of disaster and times where it feels like everything has gone wrong, it's nice to know that someone is there to help you."

PTK is a student organization dedicated to the hallmarks of scholarship, leadership, fellowship and service. Their officers, advisors, members and alumni often plan college and community service projects. PTK also offers personal and professional development opportunities as well as access to exclusive scholarships for those who qualify. To learn more, email ptk@kvcc.edu.

STUDENTS FIND COMMUNITY IN CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Did you know that Kalamazoo Valley Community College has more than 20 student clubs and organizations, including an international honors society? From gaming and horticulture to computers, music and animation, students can network while exploring a wide variety of interests and resources available to supplement their educational journeys.

"Student clubs and organizations enrich the college experience by providing a sense of community and belonging, opportunities for personal and professional development and a platform to explore personal interests and hobbies outside of academics," said Miranda McDowell, Kalamazoo Valley coordinator for student onboarding and organizations.

McDowell encourages students to reach out to any club or organization that interests them.

"Participation also adds to your resume and provides practical experience," McDowell said. "It can open your eyes to a new world of information and people – if you let it."

Art and Animation Club member Elizabeth Ekema's experiences at Kalamazoo Valley have been full of enriching endeavors, thanks in part to the college's student clubs and organizations.

"Since joining and attending the club meetings, I have created some awesome bonds with others who I might not have met if it weren't for the club," Ekema said. "It is a great space to hang out. Sometimes we have things planned like games or parties, but other times it is just a space that is safe and welcoming for everyone to come in, whether you just need to vent about an assignment, to sleep because you didn't get any the night before or because you are a little lonely."

Audrey Mattson's college experiences have also been supplemented through the college's student clubs and organizations. Not only is Mattson a Phi Theta Kappa honor society member but she is also one of the founding members of the college's Music Club.

"The Music Club is all about uniting those who speak, feel and live through music," Mattson said. "Music in and of itself is a universal language; it's the one thing in this world that no matter the background or beat, it brings everyone together."

With the help of McDowell, Mattson and her close friend, Bryce McGruder, started the club together last year. Mattson said starting the club has helped to enrich her college experience.

"Ever since we formed this club, the results have been amazing to watch," Mattson said. "We've seen so many people finally being able to express themselves at the music club."

McDowell encourages students to start a new club if they are unable to find one that interests them. She welcomes questions and says those seeking to start a new club should contact her for more information.

To learn more, email McDowell at mmcdowell@kvcc.edu.

CURRENT STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Art and Animation Club
American Sign Language Honors Society of Kalamazoo
Catholic Club
Computer Club
Culinary and Sustainable Food Club
Dental Hygiene (Student American Dental Hygiene Association)
Gaming Club
Global Student Union
Harry Potter Club
Horticulture Club
KVCC Cru (Christian fellowship)
LGBTQ+ Diversity Club
Math Club
Music Club
Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society
Respiratory Care Association
Sciences Club
Spanish Club
Student Nurses Association
Student Veterans of America
Tennis Club
Valley Future Educators' Club
Valley Writers Association

ACADEMIES FAST TRACK STUDENTS TO CAREERS

Kalamazoo Valley's Career Academies are skill-focused, employer-driven training programs that prepare students for in-demand jobs in growing and diversifying industries. Upcoming career academies include:

PHLEBOTOMY ACADEMY

APRIL | MARILYN J. SCHLACK CULINARY AND ALLIED HEALTH BUILDING | $1,400

This 10-week academy is in partnership with Bronson Methodist Hospital. Students train to work as phlebotomy technicians and prepare to gain national certification through the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

PATIENT CARE ACADEMY

MAY | GROVES CAMPUS | $1,200

Students who successfully complete the academy are eligible to take the state of Michigan examination to become a certified nurse assistant (CNA). The program, held on nights and weekends for seven weeks, provides classroom instruction, hands-on practice in a lab, real-world clinical experience and acute care observation experience at a local hospital.

For more information about any of Kalamazoo Valley's Career Academies, contact **careeracademies@kvcc.edu** or call 269.353.1282.

COMMUNITY CULINARY
LIFE ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Kalamazoo Valley Community College provides learning opportunities to community members of all ages. These non-credit classes emphasize personal enrichment, professional development and community outreach.

The following classes are hosted at the Food Innovation Center, 224 E. Crosstown Parkway. Go to **www.campusce.net/kvcccommunity** and click on Sustainable Foods, Farm & Garden to register or scan the QR code.

SEED PROPAGATION 101
SATURDAY | MARCH 1 | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. | $50
Starting your own seeds allows you to choose the crops you want to grow and it provides a sense of stronger connection to the plant. We will discuss seed starting supplies, including soil, trays, domes, grow lights, watering and heat mats.

BEEKEEPING 101
TUESDAYS | MARCH 4 - APRIL 8 | 6 - 8 P.M. | $140
This is the first course in the three-part beekeeping series. Learn about introductory bee biology, needed equipment, apiary preparation, options for obtaining bees and how to get them into their new home.

MUSHROOM CULTIVATION
WEDNESDAYS | MARCH 5 - 26 | 6 - 8 P.M. | $140
Come join us in learning about growing your own gourmet mushrooms from locally available materials! We will grow oysters, shiitake, winecaps and more. Students take home different inoculated mushroom media at the end of each session.

VISIBLE MENDING - MAKING YOUR OLD CLOTHES A SLOW FASHION STATEMENT
THURSDAYS | MARCH 6 - APRIL 10 | 6 - 8 P.M. | $140
Do you have a favorite shirt or pair of jeans with a hole in them, stains or weak spot? Do you hate the idea of sending them to the landfill? Here's your solution: transform your holey clothing into a work of slow fashion art! If you can thread a needle and sew on a button, you've got the skills you need.

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE
MONDAY | MARCH 10 | 6 - 8 P.M. | $30
In this course, participants will learn about the necessary role native plants play in creating local ecosystems and how to garden for wildlife in a space of any size. Participants will be introduced to common native trees, grasses and flowers, and discuss how to incorporate these plants into their gardening practices.

MAKE YOUR OWN HERBAL TEA MIX
SATURDAY | MARCH 22 | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. | $50
Herbal tea is one of the most beloved beverages around the world. In this class, you will learn about the benefits of drinking herbal teas and the art of making your own tea blends.

TOUR OF THE FOOD INNOVATION CENTER
SATURDAY | MARCH 22 | 1:15 - 2:30 P.M. | FREE
SATURDAY | APRIL 26 | 1:15 - 2:30 P.M. | FREE
ValleyHUB is a farm, food hub and education center based at the Food Innovation Center at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. The Urban Farm at ValleyHUB showcases a range of sustainable agricultural practices. The five-acre site includes an indoor grow room, a heated greenhouse, outdoor raised beds and two passive solar hoophouses. The Food Hub is a licensed food processing facility equipped to produce fresh-cut fruits and vegetables at a range of production scales.

SEED STEWARDSHIP: GARDEN DESIGN FOR FOOD AND SEED
MONDAY | MARCH 24 | 6 - 8 P.M. | $40
Whether you are tending a half-acre, a few raised beds or some pots on your patio, you can learn how to design your garden to produce an abundant yield of both food and viable seeds for planting next year.

TEACHING GARDENING TO KIDS: SEEDS & SPROUTS
SATURDAY | MARCH 29 | 10 A.M. - NOON | $40
In this class, we will cover how to sow, grow and harvest microgreens with your curious young learners, accompanied by options for games, recipes and other activities for exploring seeds and sprouts with kids ages five - 10.

HOME LANDSCAPE DESIGN
MONDAY | APRIL 7 | 6 - 8 P.M. | $40
This three-night introductory level landscaping course will help participants design, install and maintain landscaping and gardens for various needs and spaces. By selecting plants that match local climate, soil and light exposure, participants will gain insight on how to plan and implement low maintenance gardens.

MADE IN THE SHADE
SATURDAY | APRIL 12 | 1 - 3 P.M. | $40
In this two-hour session, we will highlight native and introduced plants that thrive in the shade, as well as design principles that can guide the creation of your space.

INTRO TO BACKYARD POULTRY
SATURDAY | APRIL 12 | 10 - NOON | $30
This class will cover essential information to set you up for success with your backyard flock in urban and suburban settings. Aspiring and new chicken owners will benefit most from this introductory lesson on Earth's favorite feathered friends.

HOUSE PLANTS PROPAGATION AND CARE
SATURDAY | APRIL 19 | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. | $40
In this class, you will learn how to select house plants that are suitable for your space and time. You will also learn how to care for and share your favorite plants with friends and family, by learning various propagation techniques.

URBAN HOMESTEADING
WEDNESDAYS | APRIL 23 - MAY 28 | 6 - 8 P.M. | $140
Come join us in learning to make simple gardens (indoor and outdoor), planting perennial food crops, preservation and fermentation of crops, raising urban livestock, cheese making, composting and mushroom cultivation. A class for all ages and all scales of land access.

HOME GARDENING BASICS
SATURDAY | APRIL 26 | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. | $50
This class will focus on outlining a plan to start vegetable crops outside in the spring, and then transition to summer and fall crops. Simple strategies to effectively grow vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers will be covered.

BEEKEEPING 102
TUESDAYS | APRIL 29 - JUNE 3 | 6 - 8 P.M. | $140
This course is the second in the three-part beekeeping series. Weather permitting, hands-on learning in the Food Innovation Center's apiary is planned for each week, where students will evaluate hive strength, health and how to support growing colonies.

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP
TBD | $10
Do you want to lower your carbon footprint and make your own organic fertilizer in one simple process? Learn to compost! Composting is the process for recycling wastes like kitchen scraps and grass clippings into an organic soil amendment that will help your garden retain moisture and support beneficial microorganisms.

TOUR OF SOLFED FARM
SATURDAY | MAY 17 | 10 A.M. - NOON | $20
About six years ago, Larissa Touloupas-Pekarovicova and Ondrej Pekarovic embarked on a journey to build an off-grid straw-bale house with the help of their community. Their dream was to live closer to the land. This tour will include learning about the process of building their house, outdoor kitchen and solar-powered farm, as well as the technical aspects of living off-grid, only 15 minutes from downtown Kalamazoo.

CORPORATE TRAINING CLASSES

Corporate training classes take place at Kalamazoo Valley's Groves Campus, 7107 Elm Valley Drive, Kalamazoo, 49009, unless otherwise noted. Go to **www.campusce.net/kvcccommunity** and click on Personal & Professional Development to register or contact Madeline Isch, associate director of corporate training at misch0311@kvcc.edu or 269.353.1250 for more information.

MIOSHA CONSTRUCTION - PART 45 FALL PROTECTION
TUESDAY | MARCH 4 | 9 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. | $130
Attendees will review the MIOSHA Part 45, Construction Safety Standard for Fall Protection, including the latest OSHA and MIOSHA interpretations.

LEADERSHIP: COACHING ON THE FRONT LINE
TUESDAYS | MARCH 4 - 25 | 8 A.M. - NOON | $750
This course will help leaders grow in their roles and build leadership skills through feedback, communication, coaching, improving and performance. Participants will become skilled at using several job aids, such as the human performance model, SPEAK, SBI, GRACE and the basic coaching model.

LEADERSHIP BEYOND THE FRONT LINE: ENGAGING OTHERS
TUESDAYS | MARCH 4 - 25 | 12:30 - 4:30 P.M. | $750
Leadership: Coaching on the Front Line or having leadership experience is a prerequisite for this course. This second class in the leadership series will delve deeper into the concepts of empowering and motivating others, training team members, delegation, managing change and influencing people.

MICROSOFT EXCEL 2021/365- MANAGING WORKBOOKS, PRESENTATION FEATURES & ADVANCED CHARTS
WEDNESDAY | MARCH 5 | 8 - 10 A.M. | $90
Students will be introduced to the Microsoft Excel environment and how it can be used to manage workbooks, create name ranges, utilize presentation features and enhance charts.

ADVANCED PROJECT MANAGEMENT
THURSDAYS | MARCH 6 - 13 | 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. | $550
Participants will learn to prioritize projects, manage costs effectively and build quality into every stage of the project management process. The course discusses stakeholder management, conflict resolution, procurement practices and advanced tools such as earned value analysis and negotiation techniques.

AI FOR BUSINESS: THE BASICS
FRIDAYS | MARCH 14 - 21 | 2 - 4:30 P.M. | $175
This course introduces beginners to the fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Participants will gain a foundational understanding of AI concepts, its history and evolution and develop confidence for using the transformative technology through hands-on exercises.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY (NFPA 70E)
TUESDAY | MARCH 18 | 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. | $320
Participants will learn to work safely around electrical equipment in an industrial setting and will demonstrate comprehension by performing tasks on actual controls.

PMP CERTIFICATION EXAM PREPARATION
THURSDAY | MARCH 20 | 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. | $1,375
This workshop is designed to help participants pass the PMP® or CAPM® certification exam with confidence. Led by PMP-certified instructors, the course highlights key lessons from the PMBOK® Guide and the Exam Content Outline.

BASIC ELECTRICAL
TUESDAYS | MARCH 25 - APRIL 15 | 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. | $1,195
Participants will learn the basics of electricity as applied in the industrial setting. The instruction fully addresses industrial electrical principles that provide a foundation for advanced electrical and equipment control topics.

AI FOR BUSINESS: GENERATIVE AI SKILLS
FRIDAYS | MARCH 28 - APRIL 4 | 2 - 4:30 P.M. | $175
This course provides participants with a comprehensive introduction to generative AI and its applications. It is designed to familiarize beginners with different Generative AI platforms (ChatGPT, DALL-E, Copilot and others). Participants will learn how to create effective commands and prompts to achieve desired outcomes.

MIOSHA 10-HR OSHA CONSTRUCTION SAFETY COURSE
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY | APRIL 8 - 9
9 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. | $190
This program presents an overview of MIOSHA regulations for the construction industry. Detailed information will enable participants to develop an accident prevention plan as required by Rule 114 of MIOSHA Construction Safety Standard Part One, General Rules.

AI FOR BUSINESS: PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS AND STRATEGY
FRIDAYS | APRIL 11 - 18 | 2 - 4:30 P.M. | $175
Designed for business leaders, this course demonstrates how to effectively leverage AI within organizations. The course covers the complexities of AI in business, including its challenges, opportunities and best practices.

2025 KALAMAZOO VALLEY YOUTH

SUMMER CAMPS

SCAN FOR REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION

Looking for some summer fun? Explore Kalamazoo Valley's wide variety of youth summer camps. From athletics to hands-on learning, there's plenty at Kalamazoo Valley to keep kids busy all summer long!

For more than 30 years, Kalamazoo Valley Community College has offered summer sports camps for area students. In Summer 2025, we will offer boys and girls basketball, volleyball, softball and baseball camps at the college's Texas Township Campus. Registration is now open. To register, visit **athletics.kvcc.edu/camps**.

VOLLEYBALL CAMP
JULY 7 - 10 | 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.
GIRLS ENTERING GRADES K - 3 | 9 - 10:15 A.M.
CAMP FEE: $60
GIRLS ENTERING GRADES 4 - 6 | 9 - 11 A.M.
GIRLS ENTERING GRADES 7 - 8 | NOON - 2 P.M.
GIRLS ENTERING GRADES 9 - 12 | 2 - 4 P.M.
CAMP FEE: $90
Registration closes on June 30.
Equipment needed: gym shoes, socks, shorts, knee pads, jersey or T-shirt and a labeled water bottle.

GIRLS BASKETBALL CAMP
JULY 14 - 17 I 9 A. M. - 4 P.M.
GIRLS ENTERING GRADES 6 - 8 | 9 A.M. - NOON
GIRLS ENTERING GRADES 9 - 12 | 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.
CAMP FEE: $120
Registration closes July 7.
Equipment needed: gym shoes, socks, shorts, jersey or T-shirt and a labeled water bottle.

BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP
JULY 21 - 24 | 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.
BOYS ENTERING GRADES 6 - 8 | 9 A.M. - NOON
BOYS ENTERING GRADES 9 - 12 | 1 - 4 P.M.
CAMP FEE: $120
Registration closes July 14.
Equipment needed: gym shoes, socks, shorts, jersey or T-shirt and a labeled water bottle.

SOFTBALL CAMP
JULY 28 - 31 | 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.
GIRLS ENTERING GRADES 6 - 8 | 9 A.M. - NOON
GIRLS ENTERING GRADES 9 - 12 | 1 - 4 P.M.
CAMP FEE: $120
Registration closes July 21.
Equipment needed: a softball glove, bat, helmet, cleats and a labeled water bottle.

BASEBALL CAMP
AUG. 4
BOYS ENTERING GRADES 9 - 12
POSITIONAL PLAYERS: 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. OR
PITCHERS: 11 A.M. - 4 P.M.
CAMP FEE: $65 (PLEASE REGISTER FOR ONLY ONE)
Registration closes July 28.
Equipment needed: glove, bat, practice gear, cleats, shorts, T-shirt and a labeled water bottle.

All camps are held at the Texas Township Campus. A limited number of scholarships are available. Contact Athletic Director Russ Panico at rpanico@kvcc.edu or 269.488.4393.

Cancellation Policy: Campers may cancel or request a refund (less a $15 administrative fee) up to seven days before their camp begins. No refunds will be given after this deadline.

EDUCATIONAL CAMPS

Keep your kids sharp this summer with these hands-on learning experiences!

EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE
June 9 - 12 | 8:30 A.M. - 3 P.M. | $175
July 7 - 10 | 8:30 A.M. - 3 P.M. | $175
July 14 - 17 | 8:30 A.M. - 3 P.M. | $175
ANNA WHITTEN HALL
ROOM 128 | GRADES 6 - 8
Join us for this career camp as campers explore the possibilities that are available to them through the Early/Middle College program in high school and beyond. Campers will experience math, science, animation, machining/manufacturing, horticulture, culinary arts, community and team building. Students are provided a light breakfast, lunch, snacks and Kalamazoo Valley swag. They will explore all four of our campus locations. Transportation is provided to the Texas Township and Groves campuses during the week.

LEGO CREATION & STOP MOTION CAMP
JUNE 16 - 19 | 9 A.M. - NOON | $150 | GRADES 3 - 5
June 23 - 26 | 9 A.M. - NOON | $150 | GRADES 5 - 8
CENTER FOR NEW MEDIA | ROOM 020
LEGO! Camera! Action! Create your very own stop-action movie. Campers will design, build and communicate using Lego bricks. This camp offers participants the opportunity to explore STEAM education and activities.

URBAN FARM EXPLORERS
JULY 21 - 24 | 8:30 A.M. - NOON | $125
FOOD INNOVATION CENTER | GRADES 6 - 8
See what it takes to grow, harvest and sample foods grown in our five-acre urban garden. Students will have the opportunity to explore our greenhouse, hoop houses and outdoor growing spaces, create salsa (depending on the seasonal availability of the produce), enjoy sampling local fresh produce and create art using botanicals.

SPECIAL SUMMER MUSEUM ACTIVITIES
FREE
THURSDAY, JUNE 19 & JUNE 26
THURSDAY, JULY 3, JULY 10 & JULY 24
1 - 3 P.M. | KALAMAZOO VALLEY MUSEUM
A great activity for children with their adults. This summer, embark on a whimsical journey with Shaun the Sheep and Wallace & Gromit at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum on Thursdays, June 19 through July 24. The museum's summer break "Inventive Adventures" program is packed with fun, creativity and laughter, bringing the beloved characters to life through engaging activities and interactive exhibits. Each week focuses on a different movie or short film, STEM activities, art and more. The festivities tie in with the museum's upcoming traveling exhibit, "Wallace & Gromit and Shaun the Sheep: Shear Genius!," on display from May 17 through Aug. 31. Other exhibits and activities will be offered throughout the summer as well, so be sure to keep checking the museum's website at **kalamazoomuseum.org**. Public hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

SUCCESSFUL HONORABLE HARVEST LECTURE SERIES RETURNS

This free lecture series returns after a successful debut in the fall. The series explores ways we can come together to nurture and restore the Honorable Harvest in our communities and in our everyday lives. The Indigenous practice of the Honorable Harvest asks us to give back in reciprocity for what we have been given, a central concept in the book "Braiding Sweetgrass" by author Robin Wall Kimmerer, who was part of the college's Visiting Writers series. Programming will take place Tuesdays through April 22, in Room 223 at the college's Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building, located at 418 E. Walnut St. in downtown Kalamazoo. Preregistration is not required. Note that there is no session on March 4, due to spring break.

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY AND GOOD LAND STEWARDSHIP AT TABITHA FARM

TUESDAY | FEB. 25 | 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Tabitha Farm, an urban farm in Kalamazoo, was founded in 2009 by Katie Pearson and her husband Mamadou Bodian. Together, Pearson and Bodian have cultivated a space in the city where plants, animals and people thrive and coexist in a beautiful ecosystem. Join them to learn about their journey, their vision and ways to get involved in creating a more resilient local community.

JERICO KALAMAZOO: FOSTERING GIFT ECONOMIES ON A COMMUNITY SCALE

TUESDAY | MARCH 11 | 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Krystal and Jeb Gast, founders of Jerico, a community of creative entrepreneurs, makers and artists, have been fostering a space where a gift economy thrives. Join Krystal and Jeb Gast in this session to learn about their journey and their vision for Jerico as a joyful space to bring the community together.

WATER STEWARDSHIP THROUGH PUBLIC OFFICE AND CITIZEN-LED INITIATIVES

TUESDAY | MARCH 18 | 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

The Kalamazoo Drain Commission works to protect surface waters and the environment by providing stormwater management, flood control, soil erosion controls and education. Michigan Waterways Stewards is a volunteer-based organization that coordinates people to get together to clean up inland lakes and rivers. Join Sam Lawrence and Mike Stout to learn from both of these offices/organizations about the different ways we can all be a part of protecting and stewarding our waterways.

FOOD INNOVATION CENTER – A COMMUNITY VISION

TUESDAY | MARCH 25 | 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

The Kalamazoo Valley Food Innovation Center (FIC) is in its 10th year of operation. This unique facility, home of the ValleyHUB Food Hub, grew from ideas shared by community members during the planning for the college's Bronson Healthy Living Campus. Community partners and interest have continued to drive the development of programs housed at the FIC: community life enrichment classes, a Sustainable Horticulture program, demonstration urban farm and garden spaces and special events like the Kalamazoo Foodways Symposium.

COMMUNITY SEED PACKING

TUESDAY | APRIL 1 | 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

The Kalamazoo Seed Collaborative is an initiative encouraging the Kalamazoo community to grow, through free seeds and seed stories. During this hands-on event, Amy Buskirk, Hristina Petrovska and Lexie Schroeder Kobb will share information about this initiative, while working around a table to get seeds cleaned and packed in envelopes. The packed seeds will be available for FREE at the Kalamazoo Valley Foodways Symposium Keynote and Seed Swap, to be held 6 - 8:30 p.m., Friday, April 4, at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

THE POWER OF HEALTHY SOIL: TWO FARMERS' STORIES OF FALLING IN LOVE WITH REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

TUESDAY | APRIL 8 | 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Join Devon Wilson, founder and CEO of Sunlight Gardens, and Kirsten Clemente, director of DeLano Farms, the working educational farm at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, to learn about their journeys, seemingly different from each other, but both rooted in the love for the land, the soil and all life forms.

WHY DO WE GARDEN?

TUESDAY | APRIL 15 | 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Mitchell is the founder and manager of Urban Exposure Initiative. She is a micro-urban farmer who participates in community garden design and consultation. Today, Mitchell focuses on the reconnection to peace with Earth and all its healing properties, as well as the gift of life amongst all the noise of the world. "Why Do We Garden?" is a purpose-driven approach to serving your family, your community and yourself. It is an interactive workshop and a call to action to find your "why."

WHAT IS YOUR WATER STORY?

TUESDAY | APRIL 22 | 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

What are your water stories? In alignment with this year's Freshwater Foodways Symposium sponsored by Kalamazoo Valley Community College, join Julie Stotz-Ghosh and Lexie Schroeder Kobb for a guided writing workshop that will provide you an opportunity to explore, discover and reconnect to waterways that have significance to you.

VALLEY HONORS SIX COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR MLK DAY

Freedom, justice and democracy took centerstage at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Texas Township Campus at this year's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day luncheon, as the college honored six community members for their extraordinary efforts.

BYRON R. FOSTER

MARCY L. PEAKE

GWENDOLYN L. MOORE

MARK A. TOTTEN

DAVE MORGAN

JIHAN AIN YOUNG

The honorees were Byron R. Foster, a racial equity change agent; Gwendolyn L. Moore, owner of Amazing Grace Life Saving Ministries; Dave Morgan, president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Kalamazoo; Marcy L. Peake, founder of The Center for Cultural Agility; Mark A. Totten, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan; and Jihan Ain Young, the first woman of color elected to the Portage City Council.

"In this world, at this time — at all times honestly — it is essential to celebrate people who do their part to make our community a better place to live in," said Trice Batson, Valley's director of diversity and inclusion. "This was a feel-good event. We honored deserving unsung citizens in our community."

"The 2025 Kalamazoo Valley Community College Annual MLK Beyond the Dream Celebration – Protecting Freedom, Justice and Democracy" event was held Jan. 30. Its thematic focus was inspired by the official theme for 2025 set by The King Center (The Center for Nonviolent Social Change), which is "Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence365."

"Kalamazoo Valley's event served as an opportunity for the community to acknowledge the important work being done in social justice and to inspire ongoing efforts toward equity and positive change in Kalamazoo," Batson said.

More than 200 people attended the free celebration, which featured engaging discussion over lunch and videotaped interviews with the guests of honor talking about what motivates them to serve. Each year, Kalamazoo Valley hosts a communitywide MLK Day program.

In addition to the luncheon, the college honored Dr. King's legacy through once again hosting a comprehensive webpage – **www.kvcc.edu/mlkday** – of 2025 MLK Day events and serving opportunities.

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KV Focus is a publication of Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Questions about the publication may be directed to the college Marketing Department at 269.488.4821.

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